

The prophecies are full of their transgressions and abominations. When they made the golden calf had it not been for the intercession of Moses, in all probability God would have destroyed them all from the face of the earth. Great as this transgression was, God renewed the covenant with them and they stood fair to enter in the promised land, until that fatal breach at Kadesh-Barnea. When the spies brought that evil report and all but Caleb and Joshua refused to enter not trusting God. God threatened to smite them with a pestilence. Here Moses interceded again in their behalf, making use of these two arguments as he did once before, namely: the approach and ridicule upon his name and character and the oath which he had sworn to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This induced God to spare at least the main body from sudden destruction. Please read Ezra.

The covenant was often broken and often renewed, not only while they were in the wilderness but after they entered Canaan. God often charged by Moses and the Prophets, to return; often chastised them sorely. But finally they plead for a king; wanted to be like other people, and finally did become like their heathen neighbors, were led into idolatry by Jeroboam when God gave them a bill of divorcement, thus was the covenant broken. Read Hosea i, 46. Let us now see how her sister Judah behaved. And I saw when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce, yet her treacherous sister, Judah, feared not but went and layed the harlot also." Judah grew worse and worse till finally Jehovah gave her also a bill of divorcement. And here the covenant was wholly broken and and cut asunder no more to be repaired for ever and ever.

My next will be on the new covenant that God will make with Israel and Judah. Jer. xxxi, 37.

Waterloo, Iowa.

"The end of Truth is not yet. He that walketh with his Father in humility will never tire of that which His Light revealeth."

STUDIES IN BIBLE HISTORY.

BY J. ALLEN MILLER.

NO. III.

Lesson: Chapter iv in Manual. Genesis Chapter xii to end of Book.

Subject: The Hebrew Patriarchs.

Outline:

I. ABRAHAM.

A. *His early life*.—His nationality and home. His family. His call. His sojourn in Haran. Moves to Canaan. Builds an altar at Shechem, at Bethel. Visits Egypt. His return to Hebron—Bursheba. His relations and dealings with Lot. His meeting with Melchizedek. God renews the promise to him.

B. *His later life*.—"The Father of the Faithful."—Birth of his two sons. Trace as fully as you can the career of Ishmael. Of Isaac to his father's death. Last years of Abraham. Make a digest of his character. *His hope*.

II. ISAAC. His character. His sons. His death. Mark the origin of the midianites, of the Edomites, of the Ammonites and Moabites. You will meet these tribes again. Locate them geographically.

III. JACOB. His early life.—His interviews with God—at Bethel, in Padan-aram. His return to Canaan and his interview with Esau. His removal to Egypt. His death.

IV. JOSEPH. His early life. Sold a slave. His life in Egypt. His character. His death.

V. SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE PERIOD. Note the state of society; the state of religion. Has the race made any progress?

VI. JOB. Read what the author says of Job,—his time.—Date of the book,—its teachings as to social life and state of civilization. (If the readers should desire and it be the Ed's wish I may give an article on Job later.)

Notes.—The marvelous faith of the patriarch is worthy of notice. Read Heb. xi.

We have thus far studied seven great men of Genesis, namely Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Fix in your mind the most important events in the life of each. Mark traits of character worthy of commendation.

We may note that God revealed to Adam the laws of the Sabbath and of marriage. To Noah immediately after

the flood were given in addition to these the following laws: The prohibition of murder, the abstinence from blood, and rights of civil authority.

How many times and in what ways did God reveal himself to Abraham? To Isaac? To Jacob? To Joseph?

HOW KNOWN.

You ask me how I came to know that the Word was near? Would you know this? Because He is living and efficacious; and, at the moment he entered into my soul, he awakened it. out of sleep; he moved, softened, wounded my hard, sick, and stony heart. He began to pluck up and destroy, to build and to plant, to water my dryness, to enlighten my darkness, to open what was closed, to enkindle what was frozen. The Spouse—the Word—from the time of His entrance into the interior of my soul, has never made his presence known by any extraordinary tokens, either by voice or visible appearance. I have felt His agency only by the movement of my heart; and I have experienced his active power by the amendment of my vices, by the mortification of carnal passions, by the penitent view of my faults, by the renewal of my life, by the enlarged vision of all things which show forth His greatness.

—Bernard of Clairvaux.

PURE HEARTS make pure lives. There are no pure hearts on earth unless the Lord has made them so, and none shall see God in heaven who have not been purified by grace here below.

"Crosses, transformed by the flames pure love, are like a bundle of thorns thrown into the fire, and reduced by the fire to ashes. The thorns are hard but the ashes are soft."

FOR PASTORS.—Pastoral care, pastoral work, pastoral visitation, will bridge the chasm and bind the masses to the church with rivets stronger than steel. All the discussion about the preacher's influence declining would be hushed if pastoral visiting were the practice of the pulpit. The power of the preacher will decline, the masses will be alienated from the Church, if ministry for any cause neglects pastoral visiting—Nashville *Christian Advocate*.